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1995
Montana. Dept. of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks. Region [Environmental assessment for Whitefish Lake State Park

Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks

Region One, 490 N. Meridian Rd.
Kalispell, MT 59901
(406) 752-5501
FAX: 406-257-0349
Ref:MW061.95
April 28, 1995

TO: Environmental Quality Council, Capitol Building, Helena, 59620-1704
Dept. of Health & Environ. Sci., Director's Office, Rm C108, Cogswell Bldg., Helena, 59620-0901
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks: Director's Office, Parks Division
Fisheries Division, Regional Supervisor, Lands Section
Wildlife Division, Design and Construction, Legal Unit
Mary Ellen McDonald (when LWCF), Bobbi Keeler (when P-R, D-J)
Montana Historical Society, State Historic Preservation Office, 225 North Roberts, Veteran's Memorial Building, Helena, 59620-1201
Montana State Library, 1515 East Sixth Avenue, Helena, 59620-1800
Jim Jensen, Montana Environmental Information Center, PO Box 1184, Helena, 59624
George Ochenski, PO Box 689, Helena, 59624
Wayne Hirst, Montana State Parks Foundation, PO Box 728, Libby, 59923 (PARK EAs)
Janet Ellis, Montana Audubon Council, PO Box 595, Helena, 59624
Montana Wildlife Federation, PO Box 1175, Helena, 59624
Joe Gutkoski, 304 North 18th, Bozeman, 59715
Dave Majors, 3289 Wood Duck Lane, Stevensville, 59870-6696
Herb Johnson, 900 W. Reserve St., Apt. 225, Kalispell, 59901
Arlene Montgomery, Friends of the Wild Swan, PO Box 5103, Swan Lake, MT 59911
Flathead Wildlife, Inc., Bob Cole, PO Box 4, Kalispell, 59903
Flathead County Commissioners, Flathead County Courthouse, Kalispell, 59901
Ray Mehring, Box 349, Martin City, 59926
Doug Rhodes, PO Box 1646, Whitefish, 59937
Heidi J. Schley, DDS, 4 Devon Rd, Westport, CT 06880
Arne and Marlene Jacobsen, 1684 W. Lakeshore Dr., Whitefish, 59937
Representative Marjorie Fisher, PO Box 565, Whitefish, 59937
Norman Kingsley, 136 Mallard Lp., Whitefish, 59937
Martin Slokea, PO Box 1782, Whitefish, 59937
Adrienne Bell, PO Box 1472, Whitefish, 59937
Barbara Stewart, 1064 W. 6th, Whitefish, 59937
Mark J. Wolfe, 2015 E. Lakeshore, Whitefish, 59937
Richard A. Fisher, 1716 W. Lakeshore Dr., Whitefish, 59937
Diane Firestone, 1716 W. Lakeshore Dr., Whitefish, 59937
Chuck Archer, 1645 W. Lakeshore Dr., Whitefish, 59937
Norm Kurtz, 1648 W. Lakeshore Dr., Whitefish, 59937
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HELENA, MONTANA 59620

Ladies and Gentlemen:

The enclosed Environmental Assessment (EA) has been prepared for Whitefish State Park Rehabilitation, and is submitted for your consideration. Questions and comments will be accepted until Wednesday, May 31, 1995. There will be an public tour/meeting on Monday, May 15, 1995 starting with a tour of Whitefish State Park at 6 p.m. and continuing with a presentation and facilitated meeting at the Regional Headquarters at 7:30 p.m. You are welcome to attend the tour, the meeting or both. Please direct you questions or comments to the undersigned. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Marty Watkins

Marty Watkins, District Manager
Lone Pine State Park District

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Sincerely,

Marty Watkins

Marty Watkins, District Manager
Lone Pine State Park District

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DRAFT

MEPA/NEPA/HB495 CHECKLIST

PART I. PROPOSED ACTION DESCRIPTION

1. **Type of Proposed State Action** Redevelopment of Whitefish State Park. This project is to upgrade the facilities to more meet the needs of the recreating public. In the past complaints and requests have been received regarding improvements or additional facilities (See Appendix B). Existing facilities are aging and in need of constant repair, and there are safety concerns regarding boating traffic through the camping area.

2. **Agency Authority for the Proposed Action** Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

3. **Name of Project** Whitefish State Park Rehabilitation

4. **Name, Address and Phone Number of Project Sponsor (if other than the agency)**

5. **If Applicable:**

   Estimated Construction/Commencement Date Spring, 1996
   Estimated Completion Date Fall, 1996
   Current Status of Project Design (% complete) 50 percent

   Four alternatives are available for consideration. Preliminary designs (50 percent complete) are completed on these alternatives.

6. **Location Affected by Proposed Action (county, range and township)**

   Flathead County, Sec. 26, T31N, R22W

7. **Project Size: Estimate the number of acres that would be directly affected that are currently:**

   (a) Developed:
   residential . . . . . __ acres
   industrial . . . . . __ acres

   (b) Open Space/Woodlands/
   Recreation . . . . 10 acres

   (c) Wetlands/Riparian
   Areas . . . . . __ acres

   (d) Floodplain . . . . . __ acres

   (e) Productive:
   irrigated cropland . . . . . __ acres
   dry cropland . . . . . __ acres
   forestry . . . . . __ acres
   rangeland . . . . . __ acres
   other . . . . . __ acres

8. **Map/site plan: attach an original 8 1/2" x 11" or larger section of the most recent USGS 7.5' series topographic map showing the location and boundaries of the area that would be affected by the proposed action. A different map scale may be substituted if more appropriate or if required by agency rule. If available, a site plan should also be attached.**

See Attachments A and B.

9. **Narrative Summary of the Proposed Action or Project including the Benefits and Purpose of the Proposed Action.**

The purpose of this project is to improve recreational opportunity at Whitefish State Park. Current facilities are aging, and upgraded facilities are needed to meet current and future needs. Four alternatives are listed in this Environmental Assessment. They include.

Alternative I: No Action

This would maintain current mix of limited access, day use and camping. No road or facilities improvements would be done.

Alternative II: Improve Existing Facilities

Maintain current mix of limited access, day use, and camping. Improve existing facilities, i.e., install showers, upgrade restroom at current site, replace small pit toilet with small flush unit. Level campsites, upgrade fire grills, provide screening between park and adjacent landowners. Fix drainage problems to standard.

Alternative III: Day Use Emphasis

Emphasize boat access parking, group picnicking, and swimming. Enlarge boat access parking, decrease camping sites. Reroute road to provide separate boat access. Reconstruct flush toilet, making facility usable in winter. Remove pit toilet and replace with small flush unit. Make parking and boat ramp handicapped accessible. Replace current picnic shelter with new enlarged shelter. Fix drainage problem to standard.

Alternative IV: Camping Emphasis

Emphasize camping opportunities and associated facilities. Reroute road to provide separate boat access. Reconstruct flush toilet and incorporate a shower into the design. Replace pit toilet with a small flush unit that would be usable in winter. Make some campsites handicapped accessible. Level campsites, upgrade fire grills, provide screening between park and adjacent landowners. Fix drainage problems to standard.

PRELIMINARY COST ESTIMATES
WHITEFISH STATE PARK
Park Improvement Project

Alternative I - No action.

NO CHANGE		$ -0-

Alternative II - Improve Existing Facilities

Minor improvements to all existing facilities.

• Road work and Asphalt Paving		$ 50,000
• Demolition and Reclamation		10,000
• New Comfort Station and New Entry Station		200,000
• New Camp sites		5,000
• Concrete Walks for ADA requirements		25,000
• Misc. signs		5,000
• A&E fee, Contingency and Consultant Fee		112,100
	TOTAL	$407,100

Alternative III - Day Use Emphasis

• Road work and Asphalt Paving		$ 80,000
• Demolition and Asphalt Paving		20,000
• New Comfort Station and New Entry Station		170,000
• New Camp sites		10,000
• Concrete Walks for ADA requirements		15,000
• Sea wall		60,000
• Misc. signs		5,000
• A&E fee, Contingency and Consultant Fee		136,800
	TOTAL	$496,800

Alternative IV - Camping Emphasis

• Road work and Asphalt Paving		$100,000
• Demolition and Asphalt Paving		20,000
• New Comfort Station and New Entry Station		190,000
• New Camp sites		10,000
• Concrete Walks for ADA requirements		10,000
• Sea wall		60,000
• Misc. signs		5,000
• A&E fee, Contingency and Consultant Fee		150,100
	TOTAL	$545,100

/nb

REF:MW059.95

10. **Listing of any other Local, State or Federal agency that has overlapping or additional jurisdiction.**

(a) Permits:

Agency Name	Permit	Date Filed/#

Permits that may need to be obtained by Design and Construction before construction begins:

Lakeshore Protection Permit
Storm Runoff Permit
Wetlands Permit (310 Permit)
Health and Sanitation reviews or permits
City Sewer Permits
County Weed Board Permit
Historic Preservation Office Clearance

(b) Funding:

Agency Name	Funding Amount
Fish, Wildlife & Parks	$400,000

(c) Other Overlapping or Additional Jurisdictional Responsibilities:

Agency Name	Type of Responsibility

11. **List of Agencies Consulted During Preparation of the EA:**

County Planning Office
Lakeshore Protection Office
Department of Health
Montana Natural Heritage Program

PART II. ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

1. LAND RESOURCES Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT ☼				Can Impact Be Mitigated ☼	Comment Index
	Unknown ☼	None	Minor ☼	Potentially Significant		
► a. Soil instability or changes in geologic substructure?		x				
b. Disruption, displacement, erosion, compaction, moisture loss, or over-covering of soil which would reduce productivity or fertility?		x				
► c. Destruction, covering or modification of any unique geologic or physical features?		x				
d. Changes in siltation, deposition or erosion patterns that may modify the channel of a river or stream or the bed or shore of a lake?		x				
e. Exposure of people or property to earthquakes, landslides, ground failure, or other natural hazard?		x				
f. Other _____						

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

2. AIR Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT ☼				Can Impact Be Mitigated ☼	Comment Index
	Unknown ☼	None	Minor ☼	Potentially Significant		
► a. Emission of air pollutants or deterioration of ambient air quality? (also see 13 (c))			x			2.a.
b. Creation of objectionable odors?		x				
c. Alteration of air movement, moisture, or temperature patterns or any change in climate, either locally or regionally?		x				
d. Adverse effects on vegetation, including crops, due to increased emissions of pollutants?		x				
e. ♦ For P-R/D-J projects, will the project result in any discharge which will conflict with federal or state air quality regs? (Also see 2a)		x				
f. Other _____						

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Air Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

2.a. Air pollution from smoke from campfires should be reduced if fire grills are replaced with newer, more efficient grills, or if number of campsites is reduced.

☼ Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or can not be evaluated.

► Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM)

♦ Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.

♦♦ Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

3. WATER Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT*				Can Impact Be Mitigated*	Comment Index
	Unknown*	None	Minor*	Potentially Significant		
► a. Discharge into surface water or any alteration of surface water quality including but not limited to temperature, dissolved oxygen or turbidity?		X				
b. Changes in drainage patterns or the rate and amount of surface runoff?		X				
c. Alteration of the course or magnitude of flood water or other flows?		X				
d. Changes in the amount of surface water in any water body or creation of a new water body?		X				
e. Exposure of people or property to water related hazards such as flooding?			X			3.e.
f. Changes in the quality of groundwater?		X				
g. Changes in the quantity of groundwater?		X				
h. Increase in risk of contamination of surface or groundwater?		X				
i. Effects on any existing water right or reservation?		X				
j. Effects on other water users as a result of any alteration in surface or groundwater quality?		X				
k. Effects on other users as a result of any alteration in surface or groundwater quantity?		X				
l. ♦♦For P-R/D-J, will the project affect a designated floodplain? (Also see 3c)		X				
m. ♦For P-R/D-J, will the project result in any discharge that will affect federal or state water quality regulations? (Also see 3a)		X				
n. Other: _____						

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Water Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

3.e. A portion of the park currently experiences seasonal flooding along the creek. Lack of drainage in existing road design, and an accummulation of vegetation and leaves slows water drainage. Restoration of proper drainage will allow rainwater to more readily flow into the creek and wetland area, and then into the lake, and will reduce minor flooding in the park.

* Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or can not be evaluated.

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PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

4. VEGETATION Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT☼				Can Impact Be Mitigated☼	Comment Index
	Unknown☼	None	Minor☼	Potentially Significant		
a. Changes in the diversity, productivity or abundance of plant species (including trees, shrubs, grass, crops, and aquatic plants)?			X		Yes	4.a.
b. Alteration of a plant community?		X				
c. Adverse effects on any unique, rare, threatened, or endangered species?		X				
d. Reduction in acreage or productivity of any agricultural land?		X				
e. Establishment or spread of noxious weeds?		X				
f. ♦♦For P-R/D-J, will the project affect wetlands, or prime and unique farmland?		X				
g. Other: _____						

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

4.a. A limited number of trees would be removed in this project. Planting of additional trees would mitigate this impact.

4.c. The Small Yellow Lady's-Slipper, a species designated as a Species of Special Concern in Montana, and by the U.S. Forest Service as "Sensitive" exists in the park. There are 10-15 individual plants within a 5-6 foot radius. The area where these plants thrive will not be disturbed by any of the alternatives listed, and will remain out of the normal traffic pattern.

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PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

▸ 5. FISH/WILDLIFE Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT*				Can Impact Be Mitigated*	Comment Index
	Unknown*	None	Minor*	Potentially Significant		
a. Deterioration of critical fish or wildlife habitat?		X				
b. Changes in the diversity or abundance of game animals or bird species?		X				
c. Changes in the diversity or abundance of nongame species?		X				
d. Introduction of new species into an area?		X				
e. Creation of a barrier to the migration or movement of animals?		X				
f. Adverse effects on any unique, rare, threatened, or endangered species?		X				
g. Increase in conditions that stress wildlife populations or limit abundance (including harassment, legal or illegal harvest or other human activity)?		X				
h. ♦♦For P-R/D-J, will the project be performed in any area in which T&E species are present, and will the project affect any T&E species or their habitat? (Also see 5f)		X				
i. ♦For P-R/D-J, will the project introduce or export any species not presently or historically occurring in the receiving location? (Also see 5d)		X				
j. Other: _____						

rative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

6. NOISE/ELECTRICAL EFFECTS Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT*				Can Impact Be Mitigated*	Comment Index
	Unknown*	None	Minor*	Potentially Significant		
a. Increases in existing noise levels?			X		Yes	6.a.
b. Exposure of people to serve or nuisance noise levels?		X				
c. Creation of electrostatic or electromagnetic effects that could be detrimental to human health or property?		X				
d. Interference with radio or television reception and operation?		X				
e. Other: _____						

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

6.a. If Day Use Emphasis was adopted, there would be increased day noise due to boaters and picnickers. In other alternatives noise levels would be the same or reduced. Screening could be used to reduce noise to surrounding private property.

Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or can not be evaluated.

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HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

7. LAND USE Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT ☼				Can Impact Be Mitigated ☼	Comment Index
	Unknown ☼	None	Minor ☼	Potentially Significant		
a. Alteration of or interference with the productivity or profitability of the existing land use of an area?		X				
b. Conflicted with a designated natural area or area of unusual scientific or educational importance?		X				
c. Conflict with any existing land use whose presence would constrain or potentially prohibit the proposed action?		X				
d. Adverse effects on or relocation of residences?		X[1]				
e. Other: _____						

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

[1]This park is located in the middle of a residential neighborhood. Current use patterns of residential use and park use have been established since the 1950's. This project would not significantly alter this interrelationship. If the Day Use alternative is adopted, there would be increased day use traffic, but reduced overnight use. In the other alternatives no increase in use is envisioned.

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

8. RISK/HEALTH HAZARDS Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT ☼				Can Impact Be Mitigated ☼	Comment Index
	Unknown ☼	None	Minor ☼	Potentially Significant		
a. Risk of an explosion or release of hazardous substances (including, but not limited to oil, pesticides, chemicals, or radiation) in the event of an accident or other forms of disruption?		X				
b. Affect an existing emergency response or emergency evacuation plan or create a need for a new plan?		X				
c. Creation of any human health hazard or potential hazard?		X				
d. ♦For P-R/D-J, will any chemical toxicants be used? (Also see 8a)		X				
e. Other: _____						

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

☼ Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or can not be evaluated.

► Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM)

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HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

9. COMMUNITY IMPACT Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT ✡				Can Impact Be Mitigated ✡	Comment Index
	Unknown ✡	None	Minor ✡	Potentially Significant		
a. Alteration of the location, distribution, density, or growth rate of the human population of an area?		X				
b. Alteration of the social structure of a community?		X				
c. Alteration of the level or distribution of employment or community or personal income?		X				
d. Changes in industrial or commercial activity?		X				
e. Increased traffic hazards or effects on existing transportation facilities or patterns of movement of people and goods?		X				
f. Other: _____						

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

10. PUBLIC SERVICES/TAXES/UTILITIES Will the proposed action:	IMPACT ✡				Can Impact Be Mitigated ✡	Comment Index
	Unknown ✡	None	Minor ✡	Potentially Significant		
a. Have an effect upon or result in a need for new or altered governmental services in any of the following areas: fire or police protection, schools, parks/recreational facilities, roads or other public maintenance, water supply, sewer or septic systems, solid waste disposal, health, or other governmental services? If any, specify: _____		X				
b. Have an effect upon the local or state tax base and revenues?		X				
c. Result in a need for new facilities or substantial alterations of any of the following utilities: electric power, natural gas, other fuel supply or distribution systems, or communications?		X				
d. Result in increased used of any energy source?			X		No	10.d.
▸ e. Define projected revenue sources						
▸ f. Define projected maintenance costs.						
g. Other:_____						

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

10.d. Some increase in electrical use will be seen with the need to heat shower water if Alternative II or IV is adopted, and heat a restroom for winter use in Alternatives III and IV; Alternative IV would require less energy than Alternative III. Consideration will be given to the use of energy efficient construction, and efficient heating and lighting systems. Even without these considerations, the increase in use will not be enough to impact neighbors, or the utilities.

✡ Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or can not be evaluated.

▸ Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM)

♦ Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.

♦♦ Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative end include documentation if it will be useful.

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

▸ 11. AESTHETICS/RECREATION Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT ☼ Unknown ☼	None	Minor ☼	Potentially Significant	Can Impact Be Mitigated ☼	Comment Index
a. Alteration of any scenic vista or creation of an aesthetically offensive site or effect that is open to public view?		X				
b. Alteration of the aesthetic character of a community or neighborhood?		X				
▸c. Alteration of the quality or quantity of recreational/tourism opportunities and settings? (Attach Tourism Report)			X		No	11.c.
d. ♦For P-R/D-J, will any designated or proposed wild or scenic rivers, trails or wilderness areas be impacted? (Also see 11a, 11c)		X				
e. Other: _____						

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

11.c. This project will slightly alter the quality and quantity of recreational/tourism activities, depending on the alternative selected. Alternatives II, III, and IV would improve the quality of recreation in the Flathead Valley. Quantity of recreation would be impacted differently depending on the alternative selected. Alternative I would continue the use of the thirty-three existing sites. Alternative II would decreate the number of camping sites by one site. Alternative III would increase day use opportunities and decrease camping opportunities by ten sites. Alternative IV would decrease the number of campsites by eight sites, but would increase the number of handicapped accessible sites. Mitigation would not be possible unless additional land was purchased, which is not feasible at this time.

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

12. CULTURAL/HISTORICAL RESOURCES Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT ☼ Unknown ☼	None	Minor ☼	Potentially Significant	Can Impact Be Mitigated ☼	Comment Index
▸a. Destruction or alteration of any site, structure or object of prehistoric historic, or paleontological importance?		X				
b. Physical change that would affect unique cultural values?		X				
c. Effects on existing religious or sacred uses of a site or area?		X				
d. ♦♦For P-R/D-J, will the project affect historic or cultural resources? Attach **SHPO** letter of clearance. (Also see 12.a)		X				
e. Other: _____						

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

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▸ Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM)

♦ Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.

♦♦ Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

13. SUMMARY EVALUATION OF SIGNIFICANCE Will the proposed action, considered as a whole:	IMPACT✡				Can Impact Be Mitigated✡	Comment Index
	Unknown✡	None	Minor✡	Potentially Significant		
a. Have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? (A project or program may result in impacts on two or more separate resources which create a significant effect when considered together or in total.)			X			
b. Involve potential risks or adverse effects which are uncertain but extremely hazardous if they were to occur?		X				
c. Potentially conflict with the substantive requirements of any local, state, or federal law, regulation, standard or formal plan?		X				
d. Establish a precedent or likelihood that future actions with significant environmental impacts will be proposed?		X				
e. Generate substantial debate or controversy about the nature of the impacts that would be created?		X				
f. ♦For P-R/D-J, is the project expected to have organized opposition or generate substantial public controversy? (Also see 13e)			X			13.f.
g. ♦♦For P-R/D-J, list any federal or state permits required.						

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

13.f. This project would create minor changes at Whitefish State Park. Since this park is heavily used and well liked, any change will have supporters and detractors. Adjacent homeowners are concerned regarding the removal of vegetative cover that provides a sound barrier between them and the railroad. All alternatives have been proposed with this concern in mind.

✡ Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or can not be evaluated.

▸ Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM)

♦ Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.

♦♦ Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

14. Description and analysis of reasonable alternatives (including the no action alternative) to the proposed action whenever alternatives are reasonably available and prudent to consider and a discussion of how the alternatives would be implemented:

Alternative I: No Action

Maintain current mix of limited access, day use and camping. No road or facilities improvements would be done. The park does not currently meet Health Department standards as to maximum distances between restrooms and recreational areas. This alternative does not address this shortfall. The desirability of reducing heavy boat traffic through a camping area for safety reasons is not addressed in this alternative.

Alternative II: Improve Existing Facilities

Maintain current mix of limited access, day use, and camping. Improve existing facilities, i.e., install showers, upgrade restroom at current site, replace small pit toilet with small flush unit. Level campsites, upgrade fire grills, provide screening between park and adjacent landowners. Fix drainage problems to standard. See Attachment C. The park does not currently meet Health Department standards as to maximum distances between restrooms and recreational areas. This alternative does not address this shortfall. The desirability of reducing heavy boat traffic through a camping area for safety reasons is not addressed in this alternative.

Alternative III: Day Use Emphasis

Emphasize boat access parking, group picnicking, and swimming. Enlarge boat access parking, decrease camping sites. Reconstruct flush toilet, making facility usable in winter. Remove pit toilet and replace with small flush unit. Make parking and boat ramp handicapped accessible. Replace current picnic shelter with new enlarged shelter. Fix drainage problem to standard. Reroute road to provide separate boat access. See Attachment D. This would increase day traffic and reduce the number of campsites. More trees would need to be removed than in Alternative IV.

Alternative IV: Camping Emphasis

Emphasize camping opportunities and associated facilities. Reroute roads to provide separate boat access. Reconstruct flush toilet and incorporate a shower into the design. Replace pit toilet with a small flush unit that would be usable in winter. Make some campsites handicapped accessible. Level campsites, upgrade fire grills, provide screening between park and adjacent landowners. Fix drainage problems to standard. See Attachment E. This would cause a slight reduction in overnight camping opportunities, while day use opportunities would remain the same. A limited number of trees would be removed and replaced. This option uses maximum amount of existing road while still addressing safety concerns with heavy traffic in a camping area.

15. Evaluation and listing of mitigation, stipulation, or other control measures enforceable by the agency or another government agency:

Screening between park and adjacent landowners would be incorporated in Alternatives II, III and IV.

More updated campfire rings would be installed in Alternatives II, III and IV.

Trees removed for this project would be replaced with 15 foot trees and other vegetation.

16. Based on the significance criteria evaluated in this EA, is an EIS required? YES / NO If an EIS is not required, explain why the EA is the appropriate level of analysis for this proposed action:

An EIS is not required as there are no significant environmental impacts for any alternative. Social concerns from recreationists and adjacent landowners can best be handled through the EA process.

17. Describe the level of public involvement for this project if any and, given the complexity and the seriousness of the environmental issues associated with the proposed action, is the level of public involvement appropriate under the circumstances?

In September of 1994 a brochure was distributed to recreationists using the park and to adjacent landowners asking for input regarding desired amenities/facilities at Whitefish State Park. A news release was distributed to all local radio, TV, and newspapers on September 9, 1994 asking for comments regarding park facilities. Brochures were made available at FWP headquarters, and at Whitefish State Park. Brochures were mailed to anyone requesting information. Visitor reply cards regarding comments on facilities were reviewed and summarized. Past surveys regarding public desires for Whitefish State Park were reviewed. A meeting was held with adjacent landowners at the park site on September 28, 1994, and a public meeting was held on October 4, 1994 to solicit comments. A preferred alternative was derived from these comments, and the comments were incorporated into the four alternatives taken to a public meeting on May 15, 1995. See scoping for Master Plan in Attachment F.

This level of public comment is sufficient for the scope of this project.

18. Duration of comment period if any:

Thirty day comment period for master plan brochure. Thirty day comment period for Alternatives and EA will end on May 31, 1995.

19. Name, title, address and phone number of the Person(s) Responsible for Preparing the EA:

Marty Watkins, District Park Manager
Lone Pine State Park District
Fish, Wildlife and Parks
490 N. Meridian
Kalispell, MT 59901

(406) 752-5501

PART III. NARRATIVE EVALUATION AND COMMENT

2.a. Air pollution from smoke from campfires should be reduced if fire grills are replaced with newer, more efficient grills, or if number of campsites is reduced.

3.e. A portion of the park currently experiences seasonal flooding along the creek. Lack of drainage in existing road design, and an accummulation of vegetation and leaves slows water drainage. Restoration of proper drainage will allow rainwater to more readily flow into the creek and wetland area, and then into the lake, and will reduce minor flooding in the park.

4.a. A limited number of trees would be removed in this project. Planting of additional trees would mitigate this impact.

4.c. The Small Yellow Lady's-Slipper, a species designated as a Species of Special Concern in Montana, and by the U.S. Forest Service as "Sensitive" exists in the park. There are 10-15 individual

plants within a 5-6 foot radius. The area where these plants thrive will not be disturbed by any of the alternatives listed, and will remain out of the normal traffic pattern.

6.a. If Day Use Emphasis was adopted, there would be increased day noise due to boaters and picnickers. In other alternatives noise levels would be the same or reduced. Screening could be used to reduce noise to surrounding private property.

7.d. This park is located in the middle of a residential neighborhood. Current use patterns of residential use and park use have been established since the 1950's. This project would not significantly alter this interrelationship. If the Day Use alternative is adopted, there would be increased day use traffic, but reduced overnight use. In the other alternatives no increase in use is envisioned.

10.d. Some increase in electrical use will be seen with the need to heat shower water if Alternative II or IV is adopted, and heat a restroom for winter use in Alternatives III and IV; Alternative IV would require less energy than Alternative III. The increase in use will not be enough to impact neighbors, or the utilities.

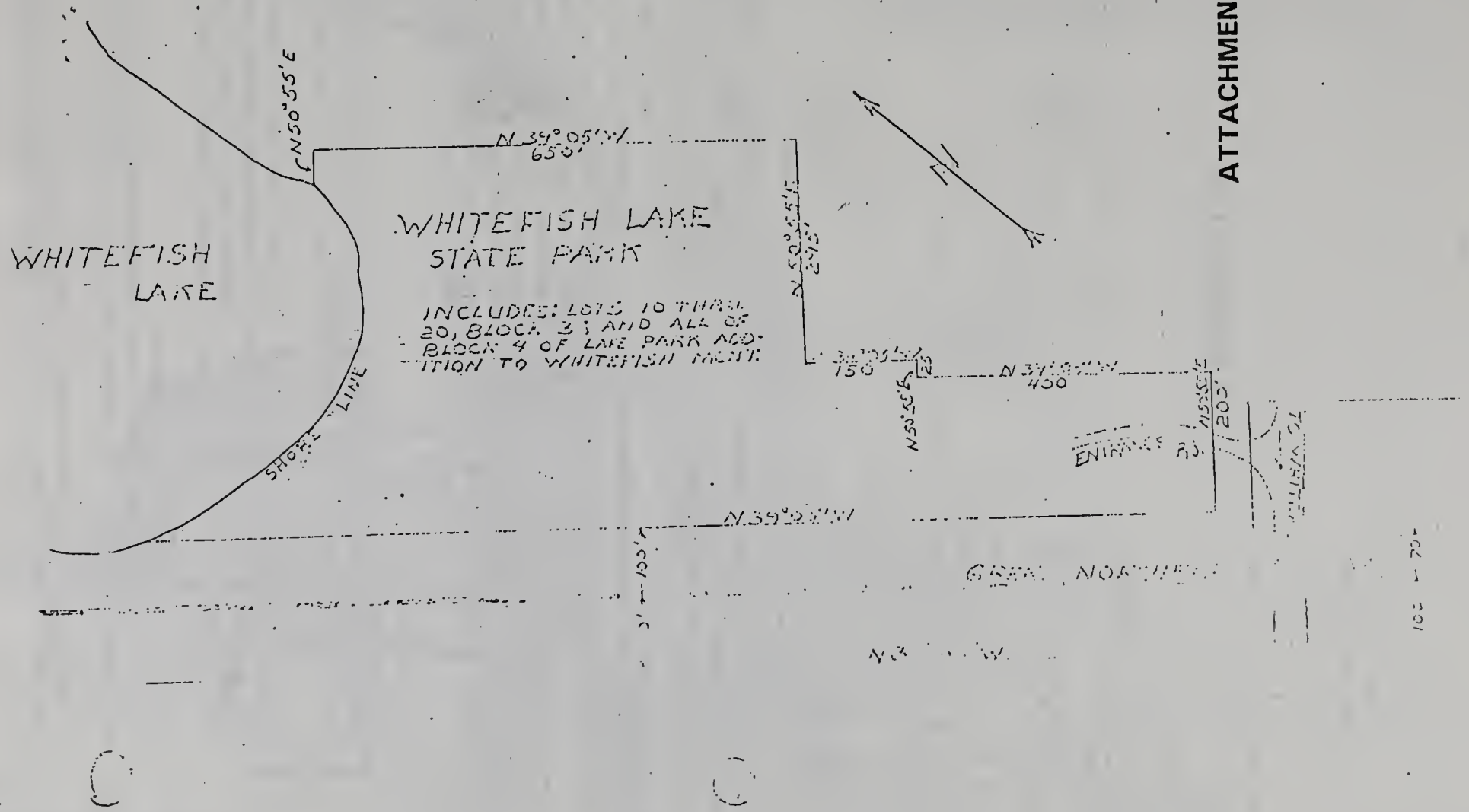
11.c. This project will slightly alter the quality and quantity of recreational/tourism activities, depending on the alternative selected. Alternatives II, III, and IV would improve the quality of recreation in the Flathead Valley. Quantity of recreation would be impacted differently depending on the alternative selected. Alternative I would continue the use of the thirty-three existing sites. Alternative II would decreate the number of camping sites by one site. Alternative III would increase day use opportunities and decrease camping opportunities by ten sites. Alternative IV would decrease the number of campsites by eight sites, but would increase the number of handicapped accessible sites. Mitigation would not be possible unless additional land was purchased, which is not feasible at this time.

13.f. This project would create minor changes at Whitefish State Park. Since this park is heavily used and well liked, any change will have supporters and detractors. Adjacent homeowners are concerned regarding the removal of vegetative cover that provides a sound barrier between them and the railroad. All alternatives have been proposed with this concern in mind.

Dog Bay
State Park
BURLINGTON
NORTHERN
Bay Pt
Gravel Pit
DAKOTA AVE
DENVER ST
WISCONSIN
TEXAS
Whitefish
City Beach
Orchard Pt
Lakeside Chapel
EDGEWOOD PLACE
Whitefish Lake Golf Club
Border Patrol
Cem
SECOND ST
Central Sch
EUREKA 51 MI.
OLNEY 16 MI.
KARROW AVE
Sampson Lake
Grave Pit
ATTACHMENT A

BOUNDARY SKETCH
OF
WHITEFISH LAKE STATE PARK
SCALE: 1" = 200'

ATTACHMENT B

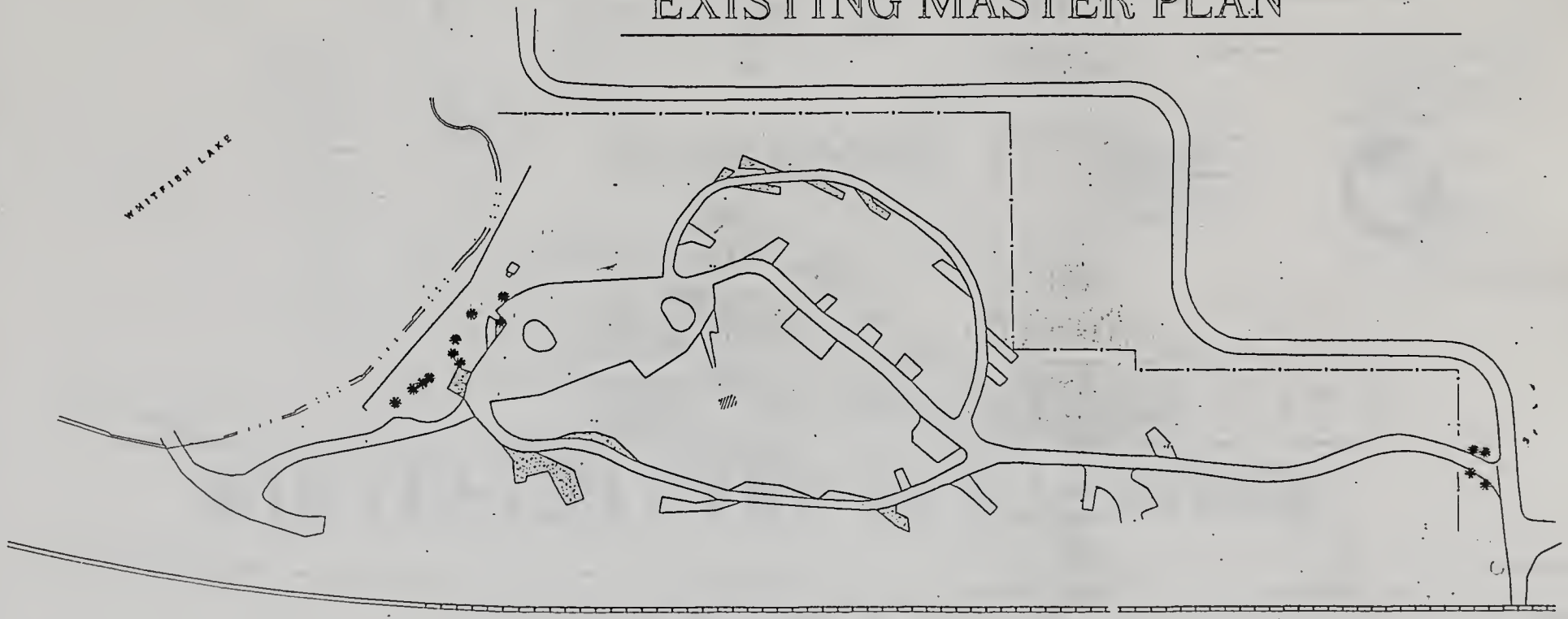


ATTACHMENT C

ALTERNATIVES I & II

WHITEFISH LAKE STATE PARK

EXISTING MASTER PLAN



DRAWN BY: DATE:	REVISED BY: DATE:	APPROVED BY: DATE:	Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks	WHITEFISH LAKE STATE PARK EXISTING MASTER PLAN	SHEET: of
CHECKED BY: DATE:	APPROVED BY: DATE:	APPROVED BY: DATE:			

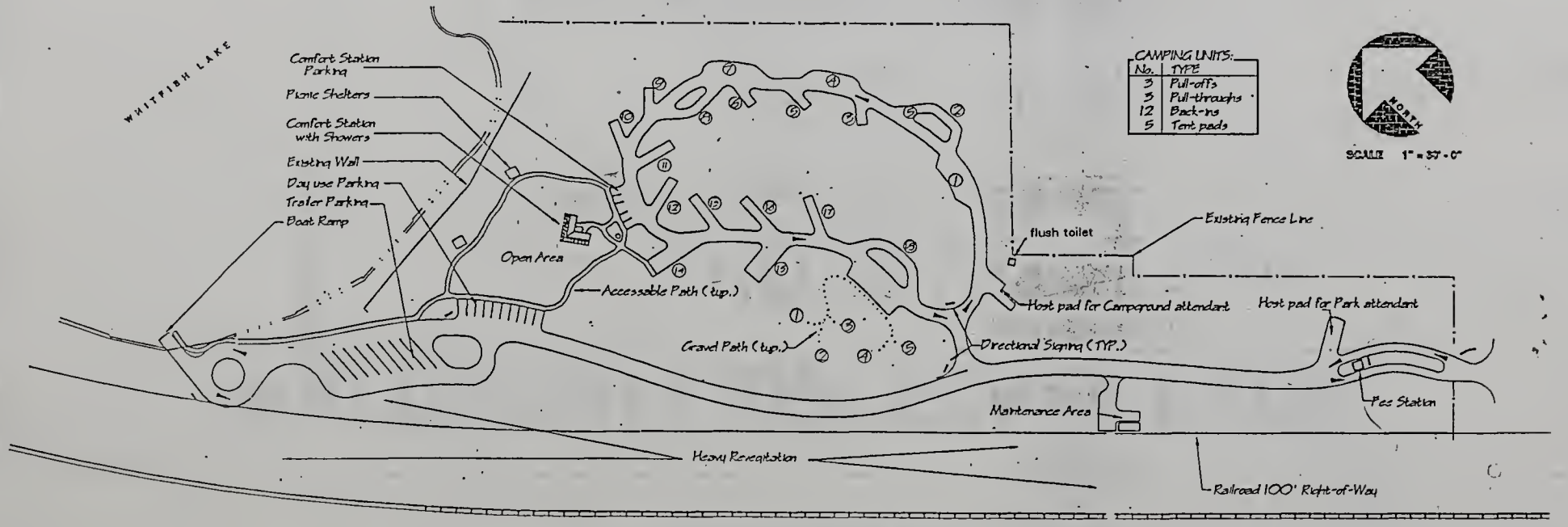
ATTACHMENT D

ALTERNATIVE III

WHITEFISH LAKE STATE PARK

PRELIMINARY MASTER PLAN II

Day Use Emphases



DRAWN BY: Michael D. Hen 9/15/94 DATE	REVISED BY: DATE:	APPROVED BY: DATE:	Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks	WHITEFISH LAKE STATE PARK PRELIMINARY MASTER PLAN II
CHECKED BY: DATE	APPROVED BY: DATE:	APPROVED BY: DATE:		SHEET: 1 of 1

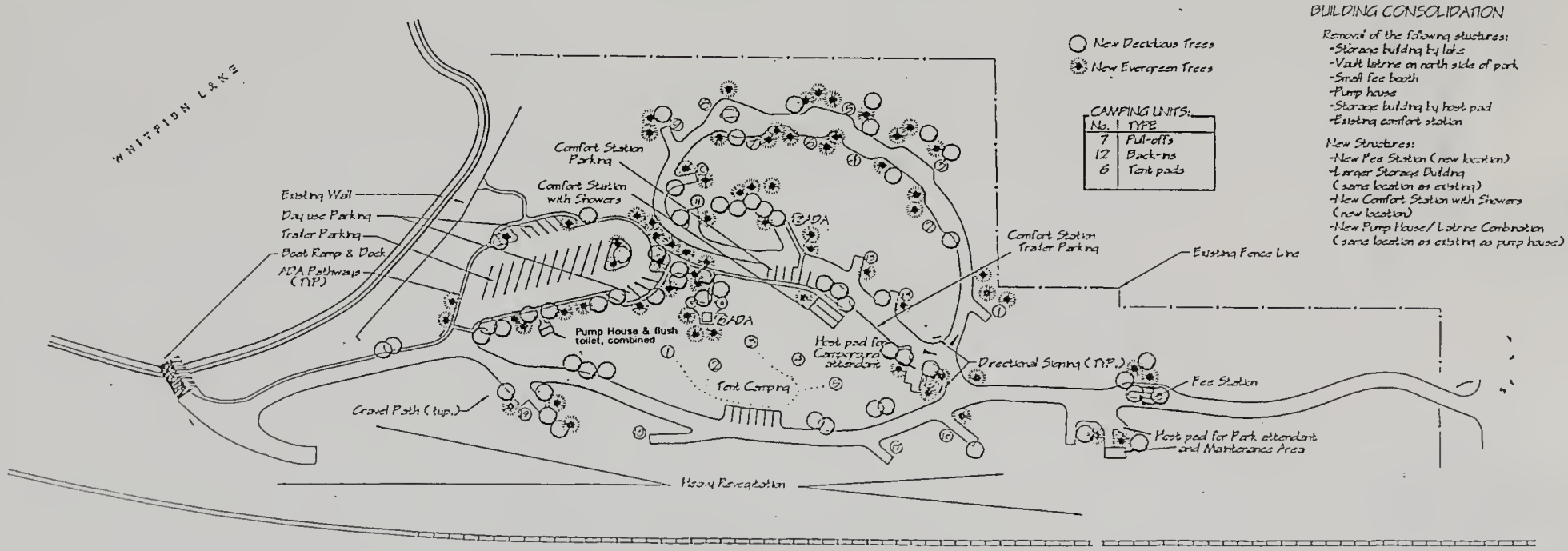
ATTACHMENT E

ALTERNATIVE IV

WHITEFISH LAKE STATE PARK

PRELIMINARY MASTER PLAN III

Camping Emphasis



SCALE 1" = 80'-0"

Michael D. Horn 11/17/94 DRAWN BY: DATE:	REVISED BY: DATE:	APPROVED BY: DATE:	Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks	WHITEFISH LAKE STATE PARK PRELIMINARY MASTER PLAN III
CHECKED BY: DATE:	APPROVED BY: DATE:	APPROVED BY: DATE:		SHEET: 1 of 1

ATTACHMENT F

SCOPING DOCUMENTS

Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks

Ref:MW024.95
January 23, 1995

Whitefish Lake State Park Master Plan

Surrounding Amenities:

Public

Whitefish State Park: (10 acres)	Boat Launch (shallow), boat trailer parking for 10 boats, camping for 35 units, small covered picnic shelter for group use, wooded, mud beach, grass lawn area. Main Uses: Camping, boat launch, picnicking, in that order. Natural atmosphere.
City Beach (approx 2 ac.):	Large swim area, concessions, life guard, boat ramp (shallow) with extremely limited parking, sand beach, grass lawn. Main Uses: Day use swimming and picnicking, boat launching, food and boat rentals. Developed atmosphere.
Les Mason (7 acres):	Swim beach, handicapped accessible, picnic tables, wooded, fine gravel beach, currently planning a pavilion for group use. Main Uses: Day use swimming and picnicking. Natural atmosphere.

Private

Two private (KOA type) RV parks, neither with lake access.

One commercial boat launch associated with a resort.

Many motels and bed and breakfasts in town of Whitefish.

Research:

Attached are:

1. A summary of the comments on the Master Site Plan received by 9/30/94. Others have come in since then, but have not been tallied. They generally reflect the sentiments of the ones that have been tallied. Note that all but three of the responses came from park day users.

2. A summary of the comments received at Whitefish State Park from park users for the last four years. Most of these comments would be from campers.

3. Excerpts from the Montana On-Site Recreation Survey conducted during the summer of 1987.

4. Excerpts from the Montana Outdoor Recreation Needs Survey done in January, 1986.

General conclusions from this research are: Eighty-eight percent of users are camping and picnicking. Facilities identified as needing improvement by day users are picnicking, camping and fishing. Facilities identified as needing improvement by campers are showers, campsite leveling and updated restrooms. In region-wide surveys additional facilities were needed for camping (8.2 percent) and fishing (6.0 percent).

Draft Alternatives:

I. **No Action**
Maintain current mix of limited access, day use and camping. No road or facilities improvements.

II. **Improve Existing Facilities**
Maintain current mix of limited access, day use, and camping. Improve existing facilities, i.e., install showers, upgrade restroom at current site, replace small pit toilet with small flush unit. Make main bathroom usable in winter for ice anglers/cross-country, etc. Level campsites, upgrade fire grills, provide screening between our site and neighbors. Do not move road, decrease campsites or increase parking. Fix drainage problems to standards, while minimizing on site disturbances or tree removal. Look for opportunities to expand boating opportunities off site through cooperative agreements or a grant system. Assist with improvements to off-site day use at Les Mason to encourage day use, swimming and picnicking at that site and at City Beach.

III. **Day Use Emphasis**

Emphasize boat access parking, group picnicking, and swimming. Enlarge boat access parking, decrease or eliminate camping sites. Facilities could include upgrade of flush toilet (no shower needed) with facilities useable in winter. Remove pit toilet and replace with small flush unit. Make parking and boat ramp handicapped accessible. Replace current picnic shelter with new enlarged shelter. Do not provide for improvement of camping facilities. Replace current picnic shelter with new enlarged shelter. Do not provide for improvement of camping facilities.

IV. **Camping Emphasis**

Emphasize camping opportunities and associated facilities with limited boating facilities. Reroute roads to provide separate boat access. Replace flush toilet with new unit including a shower. Remove pit toilet and replace with small flush unit. Make some camp sites handicapped accessible. Level campsites, upgrade fire grills, provide screening between our site and neighbors. Do not build facilities for day use. Fix drainage problems.

Regional Recommendation:

FWP should explore working with Department of State Lands on the north end of the lake to provide alternative camping opportunity.

Existing facilities at Les Mason, Whitefish and City Beach do not meet current demands for recreation on Whitefish Lake. There are demands for a deep water boat launch, a launch on the north end of the lake, and increased camping and recreation opportunities. With population growth in this area, this demand will certainly increase. A new property (bigger than 10 acres) on the north end of the lake would meet these current and future needs. We recognize the limitation of funds, and the resistance to the state acquiring more property; therefore we see this alternative as unlikely.

Given the above, the Regional recommendation is as follows:

Preferred Alternative

Seek a cost share with the city or a private landowner to build a boat launch and parking area on the lake. We could provide funding for building a boat launch and parking area through boat registration monies. The launch would be on private property, with the property owner willing to guarantee that it will be available to the public at a reasonable fee for 20 years. Follow Alternative IV with the current available funding.

General Concept Plan

Master Plan Project - Whitefish Lake State Park is an invaluable resource to the people of the Flathead Valley and the State of Montana. It affects the lives of many residents, landowners, businesses, and tourists. We are asking for input in planning for the wise use, protection, and enhancement of the State Park and its associated natural, cultural, scenic, and recreational resources.

Mission - Identify and recognize all uses of the State Park and its environs, encourage protection of the State Park and its natural and recreational resources, and promote coordinated decision-making for the continued enjoyment and use of Whitefish Lake State Park by future generations.

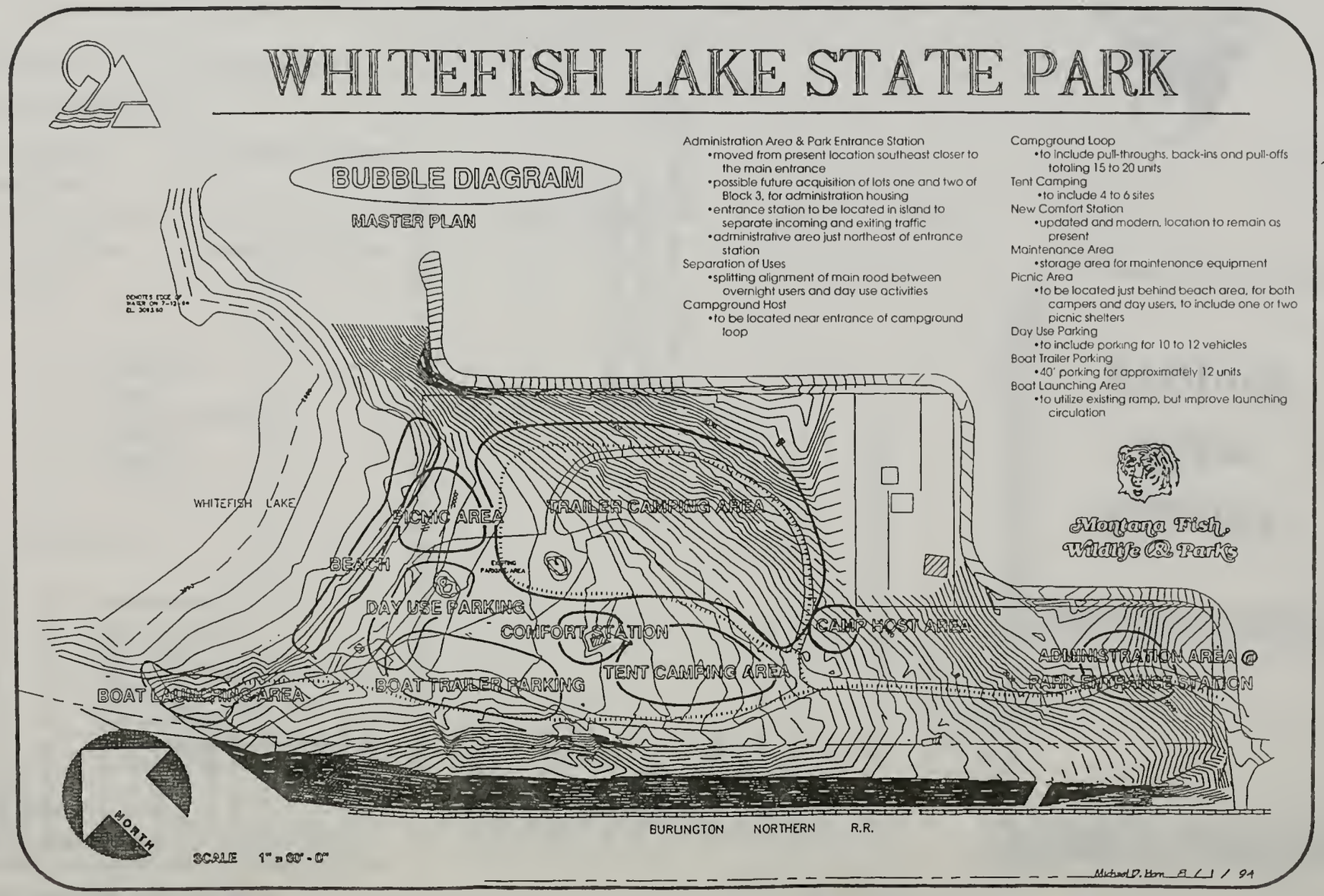
Action Plan

- Identify Priority Features, Services and Facilities - September, 1994
- Prepare and Review Master Plan - October, 1994
- Final Master Plan - December, 1994
- Legislative Review and Funding Proposal - January, 1995

Guiding Principles

Resource Protection - Protection, enhancement, and restoration of natural and scenic resources of statewide significance shall be a priority with a minimum of 25% of the land left in a natural condition.

Recreation - Providing resource-oriented recreation opportunities which serve priority regional and statewide needs while providing economic benefits to the tourism industry.



Whitefish Lake State Park Master Plan Survey

For questions 1 and 2, rank each feature or activity, identifying your most important as #1 down to your least important (#16 on question 1, and #14 on question 2).

1. What features and services should be offered here?

___ Boat ramp and boat trailer parking
___ Overnight boat docking
___ Swim area with beach
___ Picnic area with lawn
___ Children's playground
___ Food, drink concession
___ Campsites for multiple families
___ Group picnic shelter
___ Paved roads and parking
___ Flush toilets with hot water
___ Hot showers
___ Large campsites for RV's
___ Small campsites for tents only
___ RV hookups
___ RV dump station
___ Walking/nature trails

2. What activities are most important to your use of this park?

___ Camping
___ Picnicking
___ Motor boating
___ Fishing
___ Ice fishing
___ Water skiing
___ Group/family reunion
___ Swimming
___ Walking
___ Bicycling
___ Driving for pleasure
___ Sailing
___ Canoeing
___ Other?_____

3. How long is your average stay here? (Check one)

___ 4 hours or less ___ 1 day or less ___ 1-2 nights ___ More than 2 nights

4. Where do you reside most of the year? (Check one)

___ Flathead County ___ Elsewhere in Montana ___ Outside of Montana

5. How many times did you visit this park this year? (Check one)

___ None ___ 1-9 times ___ 10-20 times ___ Over 20 times

Other Comments: _____
_____
_____
_____
_____

Please fold, staple, and return this brochure with your comments by September 30, 1994.

Staple Here

Return Address

Whitefish Lake State Park
490 N. Meridian Rd.
Kalispell, MT 59901

Place Stamp Here

Whitefish Lake State Park

Master Plan Project

MONTANA STATE PARKS
September, 1994

RESPONSES TO MASTER PLAN SURVEY

1. What features should be offered here?

Boat ramp and trailer parking	19
Swim Area	17
Flush toilets with hot water	12
Picnic area	12
Paved roads and parking	10
Showers	8
Playground	7
Group picnic area	7
Tent campsites	7
Group camping	5
Overnight Boat Dock	3
RV Campsites	3
Nature Trail	3
Dump Station	2
Food concession	1

2. What activities are most important to your use of this park?

Picnicking	14
Camping	13
Fishing	12
Swimming	12
Boating	11
Ice Fishing	10
Walking	8
Canoeing	5
Bicycling	4
Water skiing	4
Group use	4
Driving	3
Sailing	2
Other	1

3. How long is your average stay here?

4 hours or less	6
1 day or less	13
1-2 nights	2
More than 2 nights	1

4. **Where do you reside most of the year?**

Flathead County	20
Montana	0
Other	3

5. **How many times did you visit the park this year?**

None	1
1-9 times	15
10-20 times	3
Over 20 times	4

WRITTEN COMMENTS FROM MASTER PLAN SURVEY

Do not cut trees	5
Leave park just as it is	5
Fix boat ramp	4
Level camp pads	3
Paving	3
Showers	3
Do not increase camping capacity	3
Increase boat trailer parking	3
Leave open year-round	3
Do not provide administrative housing	3
Leave the rest alone	3
No more parking	2
No fees	2
Do not move road	2
Fix Toilet	2
Keep it simple and low maintenance	1
No more buildings	1
Do not move road closer to homes	1
Keep peaceful setting	1
Fix beach	1
Keep as primitive as possible	1
No Showers	1
Picnic Pavilion	1
Build boat trailer parking adjacent to ramp	1
Public telephone	1
More garbage cans	1
General plan looks okay	1
Suitable for day use only	1
Trade for property on other shore	1

WHITEFISH LAKE
VISITOR REPLY CARD
FACILITIES RELATED RESPONSES

COMMENT	NUMBER OF CARDS WITH SAME COMMENT
1990	
Would like public dock	2
Dump station	1
Beach not clean*	1
Entry fee sign is misleading	1
Facility neglected*	1
Campfire makes smoke, should eliminate fires	1
Campground too close to railroad	1
1991	
Need Showers	35
Need dump station	12
Need level pads	9
Improve sink design	4
Renovate restrooms	4
Need hookups	4
Need more flush toilets	3
Would like firewood*	3
Need hot water*	2
Playground	2
Improve swim area	1
Would like grill at campsite*	1
Electrical Outlets	1
Repair road	1
Spray Weeds*	1
Too much noise, smoke and lights for neighbors	1
Train too loud	1

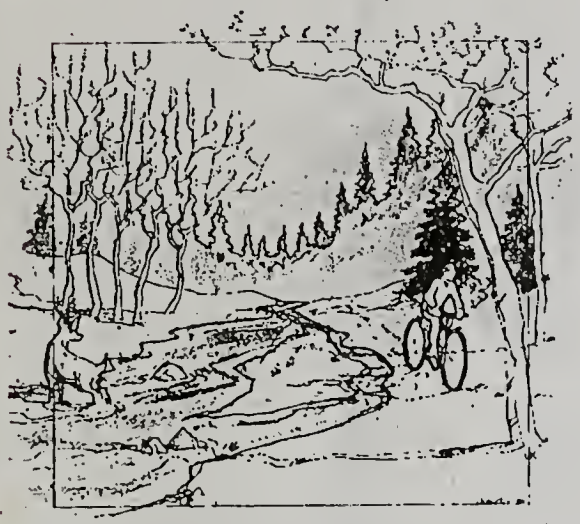
REQUEST	NUMBER OF CARDS WITH SAME REQUEST
1992	
Showers	29
Hot Water*	12
Improve Swim Area	5
More Flush Toilets	4
Dump Station	2
Level Campsites	2
Fix Signing on Main Road	2
Renovate Restroom	1
Electrical Outlets	1
Dock with Boat slips	1
Dish Washing Facilities	1
Road needs to be redirected	1
Road too Narrow	1
Some Sites too Close Together	1
1993	
Need level pads	11
Showers	6
Fix Signing on Main Road	2
Renovate Restroom	1
Widen Camp Pads	1
Need hot water*	1
Improve Swim Area	1
Fix dock*	1
Dish Washing Facility	1
Put Grills on Firepits*	1
Food Storage for Non-vehicle Campers	1
Train	1
1994	
Fix Signing on Main Road	5
Showers	1
Install recycle bins for aluminum	1

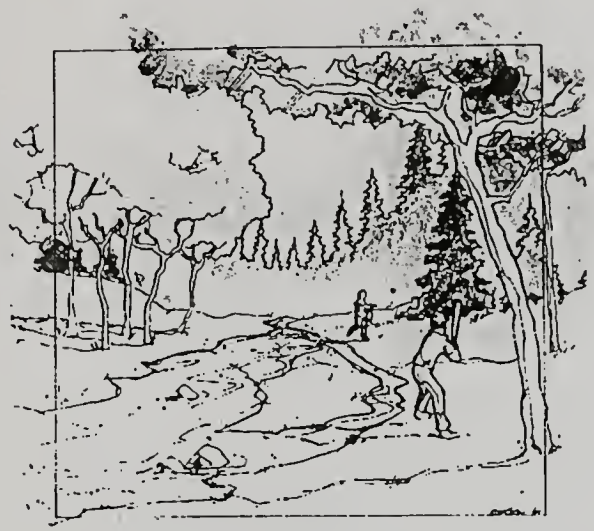
*These items have been addressed
Firewood was supplied beginning in 1992
Hot water was made available fall of 1993
Grills were installed on firerings in 1994
Dump stations became available in Whitefish in 1992

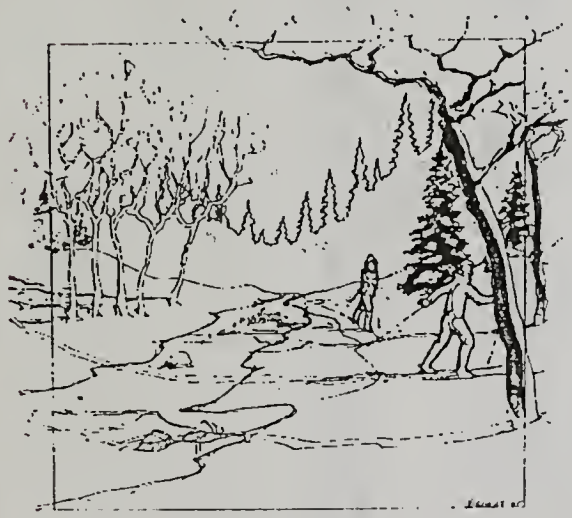
REF:MW031.95 01/30/95

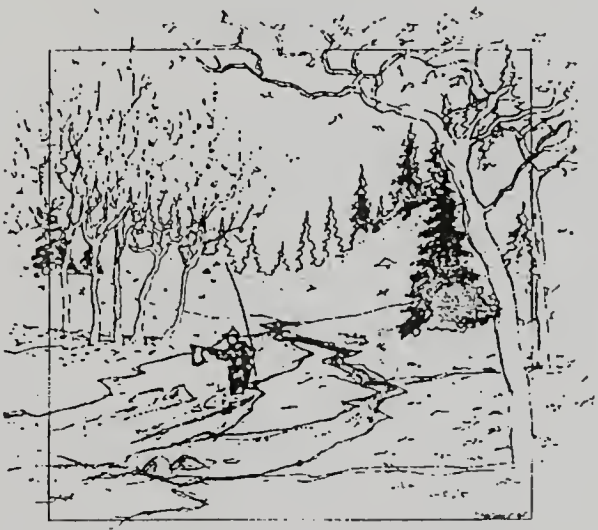
1004.40

The Montana Outdoor Recreation Needs Survey









School of Forestry

University of Montana

Missoula

1986

Table 20. Preferences for facilities, for respondents feeling that there are not enough existing quality opportunities, in percent.

	Vault Toilets	Flush Toilets	Water Supply	Picnic Tables	Fire-places	Boat Ramp / Dock	RV Dump Stations	Central Wash Basins	Central Showers	Number of Respondents
All Respondents That Were Not Satisfied	53.3	35.3	85.1	83.1	76.1	74.1	54.5	28.6	25.9	255
Residence, by FWP Region										
Region 1	47.6	47.6	71.4	81.0	81.0	66.7	42.9	42.9	28.6	21
Region 2	46.3	36.6	90.2	82.9	78.0	73.2	36.6	36.6	26.8	41
Region 3	73.0	16.2	81.1	75.7	75.7	67.6	56.8	21.6	21.6	37
Region 4	57.1	32.1	91.1	82.1	75.0	78.6	57.1	25.0	17.9	56
Region 5	50.8	38.5	84.6	83.1	72.3	75.4	55.4	21.5	23.1	65
Region 6	28.8	57.1	90.5	100.0	81.0	90.5	85.7	42.9	47.6	21
Region 7	64.3	28.6	71.5	85.7	78.6	57.1	57.1	28.6	42.9	14

Table 17. Preferences for use types for new areas, for respondents feeling that there are not enough existing quality opportunities, in percent.

	Both Day Use & Camping	Day Use Only	Camping Only	Don't Know	Number of Respondents
All Respondents That Were Not Satisfied	82.0	11.0	5.9	1.2	255
Residence, by FWP Region					
Region 1	85.7	9.5	4.8	0.0	21
Region 2	73.2	14.6	12.2	0.0	41
Region 3	83.8	10.8	5.4	0.0	37
Region 4	83.9	8.9	3.6	3.6	56
Region 5	81.5	12.3	4.6	1.5	65
Region 6	81.0	9.5	9.5	0.0	21
Region 7	92.9	7.1	0.0	0.0	14

Table 18. Preferences for regulation of use for new areas, for respondents feeling that there are not enough existing quality opportunities, in percent.

	Day Use or Camping Should Occur:			
	In Designated Areas	Wherever People Wish	Don't Know	Number of Respondents
All Respondents That Were Not Satisfied	85.1	11.8	3.1	255
Residence, by FWP Region				
Region 1	76.2	14.3	9.5	21
Region 2	80.5	17.1	2.4	41
Region 3	86.5	13.5	0.0	37
Region 4	85.7	12.5	1.8	56
Region 5	86.2	10.8	3.1	65
Region 6	85.7	4.8	9.5	21
Region 7	100.0	0.0	0.0	14

Table 16. Preferences for type of resource that additional areas should have access to, for respondents feeling that there are not enough existing quality opportunities, in percent.

	Lake	River	Unique Natural Area	Forest	Historical Site	Mountain	Other / Don't Know	Number of Respondents
All Respondents That Were Not Satisfied	41.2	17.3	16.9	8.6	5.5	4.7	5.9	255
Residence, by FWP Region								
Region 1	61.9	4.8	14.3	14.3	0.0	0.0	4.8	21
Region 2	36.6	19.5	19.5	4.9	12.2	2.4	4.9	41
Region 3	43.2	8.1	18.9	13.5	2.7	5.4	8.1	37
Region 4	35.7	17.9	14.3	10.7	10.7	3.6	7.2	56
Region 5	38.5	26.2	15.4	7.7	1.5	7.7	3.0	65
Region 6	42.9	14.3	28.6	0.0	4.8	4.8	4.8	21
Region 7	50.0	14.3	7.1	7.1	0.0	7.1	14.2	14

Table 12. Respondents citing selected outdoor recreation activity as being in the greatest need of additional facilities in Montana, in percent.

	Fishing	Auto / RV Camping	Hunting	Bicycling	Swimming in Pools	X-Country Skiing	Number of Respondents
All Respondents	7.6	7.4	4.1	3.7	3.5	2.6	1,169
Residence, by FWP Region							
Region 1	6.0	8.2	3.7	5.2	5.2	5.2	134
Region 2	6.1	6.1	3.6	3.0	2.5	2.0	198
Region 3	5.9	8.4	6.9	3.4	6.4	3.0	203
Region 4	5.9	8.3	3.2	4.0	2.0	2.0	253
Region 5	10.6	8.8	4.4	3.5	1.8	1.8	227
Region 6	8.6	6.2	1.2	2.5	6.2	2.5	81
Region 7	15.1	1.4	4.1	4.1	2.7	2.7	73
Sex of Respondent							
Male	9.5	8.1	6.9	2.9	1.2	1.9	591
Female	5.7	6.7	1.2	4.5	5.9	3.3	578
Age of Respondent							
18-24 years	2.9	3.6	2.9	5.0	2.1	1.4	140
25-34 years	4.7	5.9	4.0	4.4	3.7	3.7	322
35-44 years	8.3	9.8	6.5	3.3	2.9	3.6	276
45-64 years	10.1	10.5	3.2	2.9	3.2	0.7	277
65 years and over	12.7	4.7	2.7	3.3	6.0	2.7	150

MONTANA ON-SITE RECREATION SURVEY

LONE PINE
SCHERS
WAYFARERS
WHITEFISH

SUMMER

1987

REGION I

Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks

Montana On-Site Recreation Survey

SUMMER 1987

WHITEFISH

SITE = WHITEFISH LAKE

1. First visit to this recreation site?

VALUE	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
NO	20	30 %
YES	46	70 %

2. Time spent at this site this visit?

VALUE	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
Under 1 hour	1	2 %
1 to 4 hours	12	18 %
4 hours to 1 day	15	23 %
longer than 1 day	38	58 %

2a. If longer than 1 day, how many nights?

VALUE	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
MISSING	19	29 %
Under 1 hour	25	38 %
1 to 4 hours	9	14 %
MISSING	13	20 %

3. Number of outings expected this season?

VALUE	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
MISSING	5	8 %
1 to 5 outings	43	65 %
6 to 10 outings	11	17 %
11 to 20 outings	1	2 %
21 plus outings	1	2 %
MISSING	5	8 %

4. How many people in your group?

VALUE	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
1 person	3	5 %
2 people	21	32 %
3 people	4	6 %
4 people	13	20 %
5 people	14	21 %
6 people	3	5 %
7 to 10 people	5	8 %
11 to 20 people	2	3 %
MISSING	1	2 %

5. Activities participated in this visit?

VALUE	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
01 Fishing	24	36 %
02 Bicycling	4	6 %
03 Camping/Picnicking	58	88 %
04 Motorboating	21	32 %
07 River floating	1	2 %
08 Lake floating	5	8 %
09 Swimming	41	62 %
10 Waterskiing	10	15 %
11 Field games (baseball,etc)	2	3 %
12 Lawn games (volleyball,etc)	4	6 %
13 Jogging	3	5 %
14 Walking for pleasure/day hiking	38	58 %
15 Backpacking	2	3 %
16 Nature study/bird watching	8	12 %
17 Hunting	1	2 %
18 Snowmobiling	1	2 %
19 Cross-country skiing	4	6 %
20 Ice skating	1	2 %

7. Facilities needing changes at THIS SITE?

VALUE	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
Roads	17	26 %
Parking	5	8 %
Trails	5	8 %
Signs	2	3 %
Displays	1	2 %
Rest Rooms	7	11 %
Water Supply	1	2 %
Picnic Area	5	8 %
Campground	7	11 %
Beach	14	21 %
Boat Ramp	15	23 %
Boat Dock	11	17 %
Picnic Tables	12	18 %
Shelters	8	12 %

21 Ice fishing	5	8 %
23 Other	12	18 %

6. Main reason (activity) for this visit?

VALUE	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
01 Fishing	6	9 %
03 Camping/Picnicking	36	55 %
04 Motorboating	5	8 %
09 Swimming	4	6 %
10 Waterskiing	3	5 %
13 Jogging	1	2 %
14 Walking for pleasure/day hiking	2	3 %
23 Other	6	9 %
MISSING	3	5 %

8. Activity needing STATE facility change?

VALUE	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
01 Fishing	2	3 %
02 Bicycling	1	2 %
03 Camping/Picnicking	4	6 %
04 Motorboating	1	2 %
06 Windsurfing	2	3 %
07 River floating	1	2 %
09 Swimming	2	3 %
10 Waterskiing	3	5 %
11 Field games (baseball,etc)	1	2 %
12 Lawn games (volleyball,etc)	1	2 %
16 Nature study/bird watching	1	2 %
17 Hunting	1	2 %
19 Cross-country skiing	2	3 %
MISSING	44	67 %

12. Important to enjoyment at this facility?

VALUE	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
Water access	30	45 %
Overnight camping	52	79 %
Picnicking	21	32 %
Designated camp/picnic sites	21	32 %
Paved roads/parking areas	13	20 %
Flush toilets	27	41 %
Water Supply	29	44 %
Central wash basins	9	14 %
Central showers	22	33 %
RV dump stations	9	14 %
Boat ramp/dock	15	23 %
Other	6	9 %

13. Activities participated in locally?

VALUE	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
Shopping	52	79 %
Entertainment	14	21 %
Dining	33	50 %
Visiting friends/relatives	22	33 %
Other scenic/historic places visited	41	62 %
Live in the vicinity	6	9 %

14. Was the visit good enough to return?

VALUE	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
NO	4	6 %
YES	55	83 %
Don't know/no opinion	4	6 %
MISSING	3	5 %

15. Age

VALUE	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
17	1	2 %
18	1	2 %
19 to 30	14	21 %
31 to 50	31	47 %
50 plus	18	27 %
MISSING	1	2 %

15a. Sex

VALUE	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
Male	35	53 %
Female	30	45 %
MISSING	1	2 %

16. Montana resident?

VALUE	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
NO	37	56 %
YES	26	39 %
MISSING	3	5 %

ATTACHMENT G

PUBLIC COMMENTS

PUBLIC COMMENTS
Whitefish State Park EA

The following public comments were received:

An on-site visit with neighbors was held on Wednesday, September 28, 1994at Whitefish State Park. The main focus of their collective attitudes was the less development the better, and to not cut trees as they "make" the park and buffer the neighbors homes from railroad noises and park visitors.

Two letters were sent favoring the upgrading of facilities, but opposing the increase in the number of camping sites or the removal of trees.

One letter was received objecting to year-round administrative facilities.

One petition with six signatures was received asking that no work be done.

A open house was held, with five people attending.

One phone call was received asking that the park be open year-round.

REF:MW060.95

APPENDIX H

CLEARANCES

Watkins - R1

Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks

1420 East Sixth Avenue
P.O. Box 200701
Helena, Montana 59620-0701

Loaned

MAR - 6 1995

F W & P REGION OFFICE

FEB 10 1995

February 9, 1995

RECEIVED
FEB 15 1995
DESIGN & CONSTRUCTION
DEPT. OF FISH, WILDLIFE & PARKS

Marcella Sherfy
State Historical Preservation Office
1410 8th Avenue
Helena, Montana 59620

RE: Whitefish Lake State Park

Dear Marcella:

The Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks is proposing some "remodel" work at Whitefish Lake State Park, Kalispell County, T 31N, R 22W, SEC. 26. The proposed works consist of some minor road realignment, repaving existing surfacing, demolition of existing comfort station and other secondary storage structures and replacing with modern accessible structures. Work will also include grading and leveling existing camping spurs.

This lake shore area has been developed and in use for some time, a cultural survey found no evidence of past cultural activity, (C.R.A.B.S. Document No. Fh-6-3218). Given the lack of any cultural remains we feel this proposed project has a low liklyhood of impacting any cultural resources.

Sincerely,

Michael D. Horn

MICHAEL D. HORN
Assistant Cultural Resources Coordinator
Design & Construction Bureau
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

CONCUR
NO PROPERTIES ON OR ELIGIBLE
FOR NRHP APPEAR LIKELY TO
EXIST WITHIN PROJECT IMPACT AREA
MONTANA/SHPO
DATE 3/14/95 SIGNED

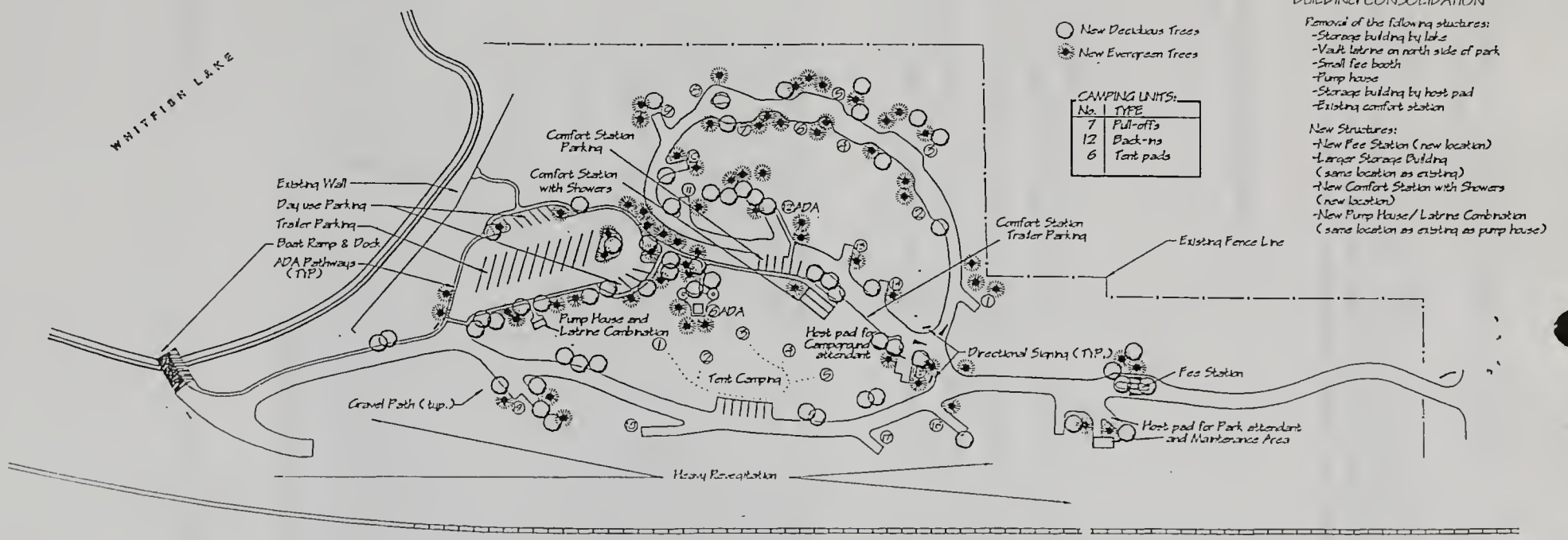
Attachment Master Site Plan

c: File 1000.1

WHITEFISH LAKE STATE PARK

PRELIMINARY MASTER PLAN III

Minor improvements to all existing facilities.



Michael D. Horn 11/17/94 DRAWN BY: DATE:	REVISED BY: DATE:	APPROVED BY: DATE:	Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks	WHITEFISH LAKE STATE PARK PRELIMINARY MASTER PLAN III
CHECKED BY: DATE:	APPROVED BY: DATE:	APPROVED BY: DATE:		SHEET: 1 of 1

MONTANA ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT (MEPA)/HB 495
TOURISM REPORT

The Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks has initiated the review process as mandated by HB 495 and the Montana Environmental Policy Act in its consideration of the project described below. As part of the review process, input and comments are being solicited. Please complete the project name and project description portions and submit this form to:

Clint Blackwood, Tourism Development Coordinator
Montana Promotion Division
Department of Commerce
1424 9th Avenue
Helena, MT 59620-0533

Project Name Whitefish State Park Rehabilitation

Project Description Redevelopment of Whitefish State Park. This project is to upgrade the facilities to more meet the needs of the recreating public. In the past complaints and requests have been received regarding improvements or additional facilities. Facilities are aging and in need of constant repair, and there are safety concerns regarding boating traffic through the camping area.

1. Would this site development project have a impact on the tourism economy?
   ☐ NO ☒ YES If YES, briefly describe:
   Reduced number of campsites may negatively influence the local tourism economy, as fewer people remain in the area. This possible impact would be minimal however, as people may stay longer w/ better facilities.
2. Does this impending improvement alter the quality or quantity of recreation/tourism opportunities and settings?
   ☐ NO ☒ YES If YES, briefly describe:
   The quality of the recreation facilities in the Whitefish State Park would be enhanced.

Signature Clint Blackwood Date 3/21/95

2/93

PROJECT QUALIFICATION CHECKLIST
HB 495

Date 3/6/95 Person Reviewing Marty Watkins

Project Location: Whitefish Lake State Park

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED WORK: Redevelopment of Whitefish State Park. This project is to upgrade the facilities to more meet the needs of the recreating public. In the past complaints and requests have been received regarding improvements or additional facilities. Facilities are aging and in need of constant repair, and there are safety concerns regarding boating traffic through the camping area.

The following checklist is intended to be a guide for determining whether a proposed development or improvement is of enough significance to fall under HB 495 rules. (Please check ✓ all that apply and comment as necessary.) Capital Construction projects - Prepared by D & C; Force Account Projects - Prepared by Region.

[✓] A. New roadway or trail built over undisturbed land?

Comments: Rerouting of road proposed, with a short section of new roading.

[✓] B. New building construction (buildings < 100 sf and vault latrines exempt)?

Comments: Flush facilities and shower contimplated

[✓] C. Any excavation of 20 c.y. or greater?

Comments: See "B" above

[ ] D. New parking lots built over undisturbed land or expansion of existing lot that increases parking capacity by 25% or more?

Comments:

[ ] E. Any new shoreline alteration that exceeds a double wide

boat ramp or handicapped fishing station?

Comments: _____

_____

[ ] F. Any new construction into lakes, reservoirs or streams?

Comments: _____

_____

[ ] G. Any new construction in an area with National Registry quality cultural artifacts (as determined by State Historical Preservation Office)?

Comments: _____

_____

[ ] H. Any new above ground utility lines?

Comments: _____

_____

[✓] I. Any increase or decrease in campsites of 25% or more of an existing number of campsites?

Comments: Alternatives II, III, & IV cause a reduction in campsites between 0 percent to 30 percent reduction.

[✓] J. Proposed project significantly changes the existing features or use pattern; including effects of a series of individual projects.

Comments: Road use pattern is altered.

_____

IF ANY OF THE ABOVE ARE CHECKED, HB 495 RULES APPLY TO THIS PROPOSED WORK AND SHOULD BE DOCUMENTED ON THE MEPA/HB495 CHECKLIST. Refer to MEPA/HB495 Cross Reference Summary for further assistance.

cc: Park Managers, Regions _____
Kevin Redmond
Mary Ellen McDonald
Project File

3/92
Whitefish.EA